

KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD NOTES

Volume 11, No. 6 Report of the December 10-11, 2003, Regular Meeting

FINAL APPROVAL GIVEN TO REGULATIONS DEFINING STATE AND FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

At the December 10-11, 2003, Kentucky Board of Education meeting, final approval was given to the following administrative regulations:

- 703 KAR 5:001, Assessment and Accountability Definitions;
- 703 KAR 5:020, The formula for determining school accountability;
- 703 KAR 5:120, Assistance for schools; guidelines for scholastic audit;
- 703 KAR 5:070, Procedures for the inclusion of special populations in the state-required assessment and accountability programs;
- 703 KAR 5:130, School District Accountability; and,
- 703 KAR 5:160, Commonwealth Accountability Testing System Administration Procedures.

Using one test, the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS), the regulations cited above define how federal accountability requirements delineated by the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* and state accountability requirements will be met.

Major issues on which final decisions were made include:

- Designation of the “proficient” level for CATS as proficient for NCLB;
- Retaining the dropout component for state accountability and not incorporating the graduation rate definition required for federal accountability into the state system.
- Defining “full academic year” as a student’s enrollment in the school any 100 instructional days from the first instructional day of the school year through the first day of the testing window for both state and federal accountability.

- Denoting a subgroup size of 10 or more students in each grade tested and a total of at least 30 students tested in the school at grades where NCLB-required assessments are administered for federal accountability purposes.

The regulations will undergo a public hearing in late January and will come back to the Kentucky Board of Education for consideration if written comments or oral testimony is received. Two legislative committees must also review the regulations this spring before they can go into effect.

For questions on these administrative regulations, contact Scott Trimble at (502) 564-2256 or via email at sttrimble@kde.state.ky.us.

MEETING REPORTING TIMELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

In order to meet the requirement of providing assessment results for federal accountability purposes to schools and districts prior to the beginning of the school year following the year assessments are administered, the Kentucky Board of Education considered the following options:

- Move the current testing window back one week into the school year and maintain the current number of test forms and current test design. (Testing window would not be moved until Spring 2005 and not earlier than April 1.)
- Reduce the number of forms in reading and mathematics from six to three or fewer. (Three or fewer forms are what can feasibly be scored and reported back to schools by August 1. However, three forms allow roughly 50% coverage of the Core Content and the more that the number of forms are reduced, the more the coverage of the Core Content is reduced.)
- Issue preliminary results based on reading and mathematics multiple choice questions only by August 1 and final results based upon the entire reading and mathematics tests in early October.

After careful consideration of all options, the state board approved the first option listed above of moving the current testing window back one week because the integrity of the system can be maintained and still get the reading and mathematics results back to schools by August 1. Again, this will not be implemented until Spring 2005. The Spring 2004 NCLB results will have to be reported in two phases: preliminary results by August 1 and final results in early October.

For more information on how Kentucky will meet federal reporting timelines, contact Scott Trimble at (502) 564-2256 or via email at sttrimble@kde.state.ky.us.

TWO PAPERS ON ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY PRESENTED TO STATE BOARD

The Kentucky Board of Education heard presentations on two papers relative to the assessment and accountability system at its December meeting, one from the Kentucky CEO Superintendent Network and one from Commissioner Gene Wilhoit.

The paper from the Kentucky Superintendent CEO Network was presented by Roger Marcum, Marion County Superintendent, and Carolyn Witt Jones, Executive Director of the Partnership for Kentucky Schools, and is titled “Renewing the Commitment: A Superintendents’ Position Paper on Assessment and Accountability.” The final conclusion of the paper reads as follows:

Renewing the Commitment: A Superintendents’ Position Paper on Assessment and Accountability

Conclusion

“After years of trailing the nation in educational achievement, Kentucky schools are making measurable progress toward excellence. Sustaining that forward movement will require a renewed commitment on the part of the state’s elected leaders, policymakers, educators and the public.

In the view of Kentucky’s school superintendents, that commitment must include:

- Maintaining Kentucky’s assessment system and strengthening the accountability system.
- Providing adequate financial support to ensure that all schools can achieve the mandates of the Kentucky Education Reform Act and attain proficiency for all students by 2014.
- Incorporating the No Child Left Behind requirements into Kentucky’s assessment and accountability system without diminishing the state’s high standards for academic achievement.”

The other paper presented by Commissioner Wilhoit is titled “Improving Kentucky Assessment and Accountability”.

The concept paper outlines several suggestions for improvements all leading to high levels of achievement for each student through improved teaching and learning, represented by the following:

Learning Compact

- Transition point assessments
- Early diagnostic tools and interventions
- Intensive Reading and Math initiatives
- Increased parent responsibility
- Increased student responsibility

Greater Assistance to Teachers

- Snapshot assessments & diagnostics
- CATS-linked units of study
- Teacher exemplars
- Annotated student work
- Technology-based delivery
- Open-response items bank

Improving CATS for Optimum Results

- Technological administration
- In-state teacher scoring
- End of course exams
- Writing assessment modifications
- Updating national comparisons

The concepts from the papers will be discussed in-depth by the Board's Assessment Committee over the coming months.

For more information on these papers, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141 or via email at mmiller@kde.state.ky.us.

STATE BOARD ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

As part of the update on coordinated school health activities, the Board's Management Committee was apprised of recent data on obesity showing that one-third of high school students are at-risk of being over-weight. To emphasize concern on this serious issue and send a call to action to schools and the Kentucky Department of Education, the following resolution was passed:

*RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING INCORPORATION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WITHIN
THE SCHOOL DAY*

*By
The Kentucky Board of Education
Commonwealth of Kentucky*

Whereas, Physical activity supports the physical well being of a student and also enables a student to be ready to learn, and

Whereas, The Kentucky Board of Education recognizes and supports the philosophy of local control and decision making as to effective use of the school day, including student physical activity.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Kentucky Board of Education that every public elementary and secondary school in Kentucky is strongly encouraged to integrate into the school day physical activity for every student and that the Kentucky Department of Education must promote awareness among the schools as to resources and models of best practices available to integrate student physical activity within the school day.

DONE AT THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF
EDUCATION MEETING, in the city of
Frankfort, this eleventh day of December, in
the year Two Thousand and Three.

Helen W. Mountjoy, Chair
Kentucky Board of Education

Gene Wilhoit, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education

Department staff was directed to disseminate the resolution across the state, provide models to schools on implementing physical activity within the school day and partner with the Kentucky School Boards Association and Kentucky Association of School Councils in this effort. A follow-up discussion on this problem will occur at the February state board meeting.

For more information on this issue, contact Paul McElwain at (502) 564-5625 or via email at pmcelwai@kde.state.ky.us.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT THE DECEMBER MEETING WERE:

- Implementation of Kentucky Technology Standards for Students
- District Facility Plans for: Adair, Bullitt, Caldwell, Henry, Jefferson and Owen Counties and Campbellsville and Owensboro Independents
- District facility plan amendment for Floyd County
- 2003-2004 Local District Working Budgets
- 2003-2004 Local District Tax Rates Levied
- Request by the Jefferson County Board of Education to use an alternative formula to allocate funds to school councils in 2004-05
- Site approval for the proposed New Alexandria Elementary School in Campbell County
- School Facilities Construction – Facility Unmet Needs Report
- Points of understanding developed by the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Network
- 2004 Legislative Agenda of the Kentucky Board of Education and Department of Education Biennial Budget Request
- Attendance by Keith Travis to NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee meetings
- New contract for commissioner of education

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED BY THE BOARD WITH NO ACTION TAKEN INCLUDED:

- KDE Employment Report
- Refocusing secondary education
- Daytime Extended School Service Programs
- Core Content Alignment to Meet *No Child Left Behind* Requirements
- Status of the School Breakfast Program
- 702 KAR 7:125, Pupil Attendance
- Update on Deficit and Watch List Districts
- KHSAA Title IX update and report on Title IX deficiencies for schools audited during the 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 school years
- KHSAA Annual Report
- Validity and Reliability Studies
- Assessment Committee Calendar of Agenda Items
- Update on the Kentucky School for the Deaf and Kentucky School for the Blind and reports from regional stakeholder committees
- Minority applicants for Certified Vacancies in Kentucky School Districts 2002-2003 Kentucky Educator Placement Service (KEPS)

KBE MEETING DATES FOR 2004

<u>2004</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 11-12	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 7-8	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 12-13	KBE retreat and strategic plan discussion	*TBD
June 2-3	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 11-12	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
October 6-7	Regular meeting	*TBD
December 8-9	Regular meeting	Frankfort

*TBD – To be determined

For more information on the schedule contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 (email mmiller@kde.state.ky.us) or Susan Palmer at 502-564-3141 (email spalmer@kde.state.ky.us).

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the December 10-11, 2003, regular meeting conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1st Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Coordinator at (502) 564-3141.

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